

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior claims, and listings of claims, in the application:

1. (Currently amended): A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool which is employed in a substrate for a surface coated gear cutting tool obtained by forming a hard coated layer on a surface of said substrate,

    said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool comprising a WC- $\beta$ t-Co based cemented carbide,

    wherein a content of Co forming a binder phase of said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool is in a range of 12 to 17 wt%,

    wherein among components of a  $\beta$ t solid solution forming a hard phase of said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool, a content of components excluding WC is in a range of 15 to 20 wt%, and a total content of Ta carbonitride and Nb carbonitride is in a range of 5 to 7 wt%,

    wherein said  $\beta$ t solid solution comprises: TiC; TiN; Ta carbonitride; and Nb carbonitride, and

    wherein a Nb content  $D_{Nb}$  and a Ta content  $D_{Ta}$  in said  $\beta$ t solid solution satisfy a relational expression of  $D_{Nb}/(D_{Nb}+D_{Ta}) \geq 0.7$ .

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original): A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein a fracture toughness at room temperature is in a range of 9.5 to 13 MPa(m)<sup>1/2</sup>.

4. (Original): A surface coated gear cutting tool comprising a cemented carbide material for surface coated gear cutting tools according to claim 1.

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5-8. (Canceled)